

Office of Personnel Management

§ 734.205

§ 734.204 Participation in political organizations.

An employee may:

- (a) Be a member of a political party or other political group and participate in its activities;
 - (b) Serve as an officer of a political party or other political group, a member of a national, State, or local committee of a political party, an officer or member of a committee of a political group, or be a candidate for any of these positions;
 - (c) Attend and participate fully in the business of nominating caucuses of political parties;
 - (d) Organize or reorganize a political party organization or political group; and
 - (e) Participate in a political convention, rally, or other political gathering.
- (f) Serve as a delegate, alternate, or proxy to a political party convention.

Example 1: An employee of the Department of Education may serve as a delegate, alternate, or proxy to a State or national party convention.

Example 2: A noncareer member of the Senior Executive Service, or other employee covered under this subpart, may serve as a vice-president of a political action committee, as long as the duties of the office do not involve personal solicitation, acceptance, or receipt of political contributions. Ministerial activities which precede or follow the official acceptance and receipt, such as handling, disbursing, or accounting for contributions are not covered under the definitions of *accept* and *receive* in § 734.101. Sections 734.208 and 734.303 describe in detail permitted and prohibited activities which are related to fundraising.

Example 3: An employee of the Federal Communications Commission may make motions or place a name in nomination at a nominating caucus.

Example 4: An employee of the Department of the Interior may serve as an officer of a candidate's campaign committee as long as he does not personally solicit, accept, or receive political contributions. Sections 734.208 and 734.303 of this part describe in detail permitted and prohibited activities which are related to fundraising.

[59 FR 48769, Sept. 23, 1994, as amended at 61 FR 35100, July 5, 1996]

§ 734.205 Participation in political campaigns.

Subject to the prohibitions in § 734.306, an employee may:

(a) Display pictures, signs, stickers, badges, or buttons associated with political parties, candidates for partisan political office, or partisan political groups, as long as these items are displayed in accordance with the provisions of § 734.306 of subpart C of this part;

(b) Initiate or circulate a nominating petition for a candidate for partisan political office;

(c) Canvass for votes in support of or in opposition to a partisan political candidate or a candidate for political party office;

(d) Endorse or oppose a partisan political candidate or a candidate for political party office in a political advertisement, broadcast, campaign literature, or similar material;

(e) Address a convention, caucus, rally, or similar gathering of a political party or political group in support of or in opposition to a partisan political candidate or a candidate for political party office; and

(f) Take an active part in managing the political campaign of a partisan political candidate or a candidate for political party office.

Example 1: An employee of the Environmental Protection Agency may broadcast endorsements for a partisan political candidate via a public address system attached to his or her private automobile.

Example 2: An employee of the Department of Interior may canvass voters by telephone on behalf of a political party or partisan political candidate.

Example 3: An employee of the Department of Agriculture may stand outside of polling places on election day and hand out brochures on behalf of a partisan political candidate or political party.

Example 4: An employee may appear in a television or radio broadcast which endorses a partisan political candidate and is sponsored by the candidate's campaign committee, a political party, or a partisan political group.

Example 5: An independent contractor is not covered by this part and may display a political button while performing the duties for which he or she is contracted.

Example 6: An employee of the Department of Commerce who is on official travel may take annual leave in the morning to give an address at a breakfast for a candidate for partisan political office.

Example 7: An employee may manage the political campaign of a candidate for public